Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Listing of Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the pending claims and replaces all previous versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) ~~An article~~ A hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive having a flow temperature and a thermoplastic packaging material enveloping said wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive, said thermoplastic packaging material having a melting temperature lower than the flow temperature of the pressure sensitive adhesive, wherein said ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive comprises the polymerization product of:

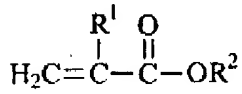
(a) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester monomer wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(b) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

(c) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts (a) + (b) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

2. (Currently amended) The hot melt ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomers has the following general formula:



wherein R^1 is H or CH_3, the latter corresponding to where the (meth)acrylate monomer is a methacrylate monomer and R^2 is linear or branched hydrocarbon groups and may contain one

or more heteroatoms and the number of carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon group is about 4 to about 12.

3. (Currently amended) The hot melt ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 2 wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer is n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isooctyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, or mixture thereof.

4. (Currently amended) The hot melt ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The hot melt ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 4 wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. (Currently amended) The hot melt ~~wet stick~~ pressure sensitive adhesive according to claim 1 wherein the plasticizing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene oxides, alkyl or aryl functionalized polyalkylene oxides, benzoyl functionalized polyethers, monomethyl ethers of polyethylene oxides and mixtures thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a ~~wet stick~~ hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) combining a solventless polymerizable mixture comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

(iii) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components ~~(a) +~~ ~~(b)~~ (i) and (ii) of a non-volatile, non-reactive plasticizing agent;

(b) enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material;

(c) polymerizing the solventless polymerizable mixture to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces, said pressure sensitive adhesive having a flow temperature, wherein the thermoplastic packaging material has a melting temperature lower than the flow temperature of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

9. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a ~~wet stick~~ hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) combining a solventless polymerizable mixture comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

(iii) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components ~~(a) +~~ ~~(b)~~ (i) and (ii) of a non volatile, non-reactive plasticizing agent;

(b) enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material;

(c) exposing the enveloped polymerizable mixture to sufficient radiation to polymerize the polymerizable mixture and to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces, said pressure sensitive adhesive having a flow temperature, wherein the thermoplastic packaging material has a melting temperature lower than the flow temperature of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

10. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a prepolymeric syrup comprising:

(i) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester wherein the (meth)acrylate ester, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C; and

(ii) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer;

(b) combining the prepolymeric syrup with about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts of the sum of components (i) + (ii) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent to form a polymerizable mixture;

(c) enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material;

(d) exposing the enveloped polymerizable mixture to sufficient radiation to polymerize the polymerizable mixture and to form the pressure sensitive adhesive that adheres to wet substrate surfaces.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 1, wherein the packaging material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid, polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, or ionomeric materials.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~article~~ hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 1, wherein the packaging material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate or ethylene-acrylic acid.

13. (Currently amended) An article comprising:

a substrate; and

a hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive applied to a surface of said substrate, said hot melt adhesive comprising a mixture of a pressure sensitive adhesive having a flow temperature and a thermoplastic material having a ~~melt~~ melting temperature ~~of 200 °C or less~~ that is less than the flow temperature of the pressure sensitive adhesive, said pressure sensitive adhesive comprising

(a) about 30 to about 70 parts by weight of an (meth)acrylate ester monomer wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomer, when homopolymerized, has a Tg of less than about 10°C;

(b) about 70 to about 30 parts by weight of a hydrophilic acidic comonomer; and

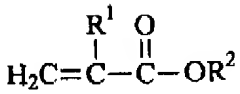
(c) about 10 to 100 parts based on 100 parts (a) + (b) of a non-reactive plasticizing agent.

14. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid, polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, or ionomeric materials.

15. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate or ethylene-acrylic acid.

16. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the mixture further comprises a crosslinking agent.

17. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the (meth)acrylate ester monomers has the following general formula:



wherein R^1 is H or CH_3, the latter corresponding to where the (meth)acrylate monomer is a methacrylate monomer and R^2 is linear or branched hydrocarbon groups and may contain one or more heteroatoms and the number of carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon group is about 4 to about 12.

18. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the hydrophilic acidic monomer is ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids, or mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the plasticizing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene oxides, alkyl or aryl functionalized polyalkylene oxides, benzoyl functionalized polyethers, monomethyl ethers of polyethylene oxides and mixtures thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The article of claim 13, further comprising a wet surface, wherein the adhesive is positioned between the substrate and the wet surface and wherein the adhesive adheres to the wet surface.

21. CANCEL

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising adhering the pressure sensitive adhesive to a wet surface.

25. (New) The hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid, polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutadiene, or ionomeric materials.

26. (New) The hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from ethylene-vinyl acetate or ethylene-acrylic acid.

With this response, an earnest effort has been made to respond to all issues raised in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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